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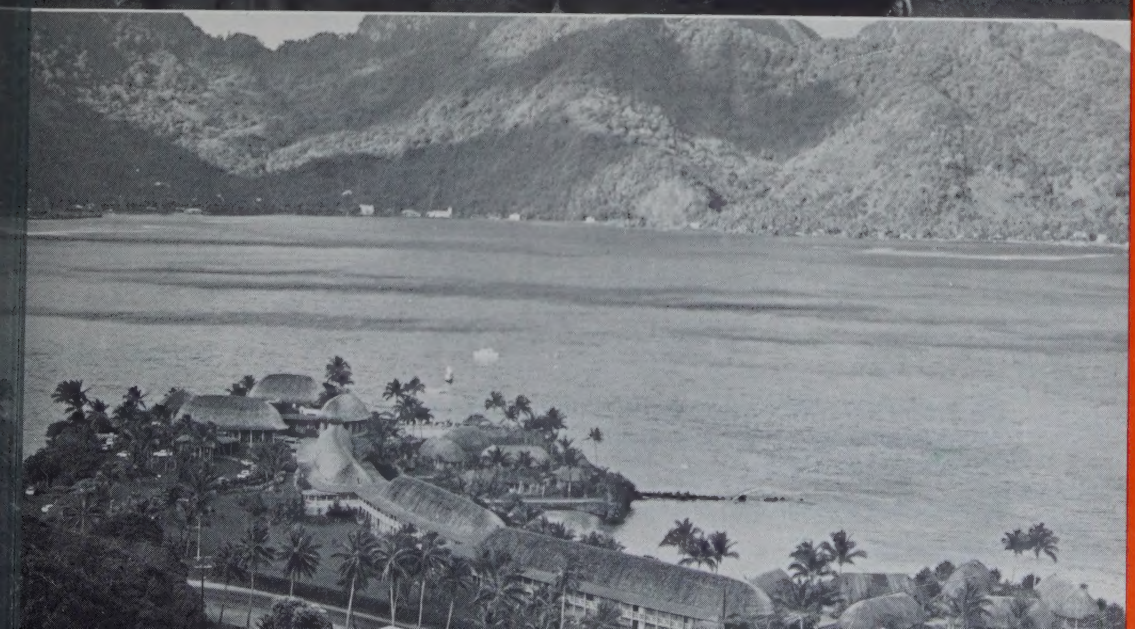

1983 Christian Youth Witness Issue

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Cover

A view of Samoa and the Petesa Christian Endeavor group during their annual Christian Endeavor Conference held at Kanana Fuu, Tafuna, American Samoa, June 14-16, 1982. Rev. Otto T. Galea'i is general secretary of the Christian Endeavor Society of American Samoa.

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Individual and group winners in the 1983 Christian Youth Witness Awards Program are announced. These awards are made possible through the Diebold Foundation.

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Volume 98

Summer 1983

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Publisher
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Christian Youth Witness

Albert H. Diebold Awards

1983

Winning youth and Christian Endeavor societies in the 1983 Christian Youth Witness Program sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor have been announced by Rev. Charles W. Barner, general secretary.

The Albert H. Diebold Awards, in addition to cash and grants to attend the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle, Washington, July 4-8, 1983, include an attractive plaque to all winners, plus honor certificates to all other qualified entrants. The awards will be presented to recipients in Seattle on July 7.

Individual winners entered an activity, projects, posters, talk. Entries had to be completed before February 13, 1983, and were judged on the basis of originality, excellence of literary or art form used and their Christian witness to the community.

Societies sponsored and reported Christian witness projects completed before February 15, 1983. Each activity was evaluated on the basis of group participation, goals established and achieved and its Christian witness to the community.

Through the generous financial support of the Diebold Foundation, this continuing program has been made possible for the past 32 years. The 1983 Program marks the 27th year that the awards have been named in honor of the late Albert H. Diebold, a Christian layman of New York City.

Judges for this year's entries were: Mrs. Anna Assink, editor of the Washington ENDEAVOR BULLETIN, Yakima, Washington; Rev. Byron A. Travis, pastor, Parkway Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, Washington; and Jerry Zylstra, manufacturing engineer, Lynwood, Washington.

Individual

Debbie Skalsky
Bethlehem
Congregational Church
Disputanta, Virginia

For her "reach out" project
in Equador
Debbie receives $125 in cash
plus a grant of $100 for the
expenses of attending the
57th International Christian
Endeavor Convention
July 4-8, 1983, in
Seattle, Washington

Society
Teen

Christian Endeavor Society
Bruton Road Christian Church
Dallas, Texas

For its community witness
program, this group receives
$150 in cash plus a grant of
$150 for the expenses of one
or more youth representatives to
attend the 57th International
Christian Endeavor Convention
July 4-8, 1983, in
Seattle, Washington

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

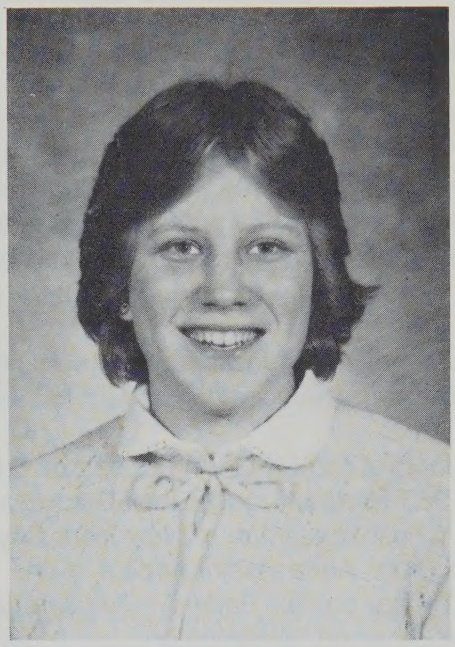
To take top place in the individual entries, Debra Eileen Skalsky entered her 58-day missionary reach-out project to the Quichua Indiana in Ecuador which began June 20, 1982. Debbie committed herself to the project when her Sunday school class was challenged by Martha Craymer, a medical missionary to Ecuador who was home on furlough.

In Ecuador a caravan team of one or more doctors, one or more nurses, and as many volunteers as available moved into various communities. Each day a free medical clinic was conducted and medical records were kept. Each evening spiritual needs were met through singing, Bible reading, and preaching of the Gospel.

Of her project Debbie said, "Just getting to some of the communities created fears and problems. If we were lucky, a dirt road to a village would be available, but even then the roads caused many a scary moment because of its narrowness. It there was no road to a community, we walked most of the way and used donkeys to carry our supplies."

Debbie is a member of the Bethlehem Congregational Church. She is 17 years old and serves as president of the Senior High Christian Endeavor Society.

Christine Burke, the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burke of Angola, New York, took second place with her mission project to the Philippine Islands. She went to the Philippines with 31 Christians including her parents on a mission project.



Debra Eileen Skalsky

She spent most of her time with young adults — singing, praying, and witnessing. She also helped teach Filipino children about the Lord through singing, story telling, and puppets.

Since her trip to the Philippines, Christine is teaching a Sunday school class, spoke at the New York State Christian Endeavor Summer Assembly and taught at the New York State Western Regional Conference, formed a Christian singing group, and is writing letters to many people throughout the world encouraging them to walk with the Lord.

Christine is a member of the First Church of Evans in Derby, New York. She serves as chairman of the Missionary Committee in her local Christian Endeavor society and is Devotional Superintendent for the New York State Christian Endeavor Union.

Patricia Schultz won third place in this year's competition for her poster based on Proverbs 6:16-19 entitled "Seven Things God Hates." She listed the seven things and when parts of the body were mentioned, such as eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet, mouth, she illustrated them by drawing the various parts of the human body.

The poster was displayed at her church and later at the World's Fair in Knoxville as well as the Southern Regional Christian Endeavor Conference.

Patricia is 13 years old, a member of the Northport Christian Church in Newport, Tennessee, and vice-president of her Christian Endeavor society.

Christopher Wade Barnes won fourth place with his entry on the tree of life. Verses of Scripture from the Bible were attached to colorful leaves and these were affixed to a bare-branched tree to form the tree of life. The tree was displayed at his church and at the World's Fair.

Chris also visited elderly people in his community where he read verses of Scripture and helped clean the house, did yard work, and ran errands.

Chris is a member of the youth group at Williamsburg Baptist Church in Sevierville, Tennessee.

The two runners-up in the 1983 Christian Youth Witness Program are: Terry Anderson Cross of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbus, Ohio, and Ann McClymonds of North Liberty United Presbyterian Church, Grove City, Pennsylvania.

1. *Christine Burke in Philippines*
2. *Chris Barnes*
3. *Filipino Children*
4. *Ann McClymonds*
5. *Terry Cross*
6. *Christine Burke*

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INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

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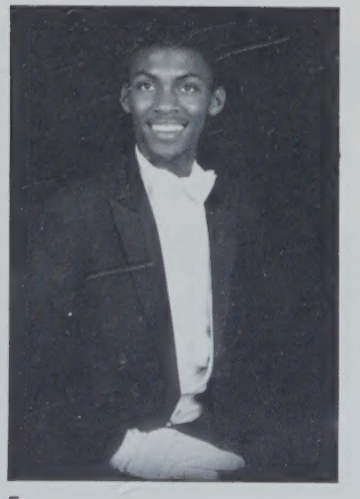

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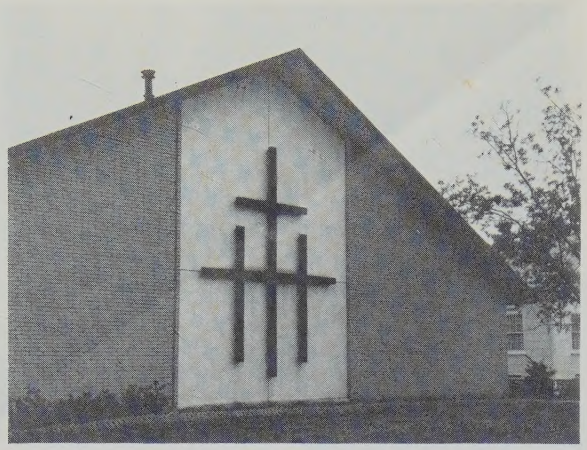

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1. *Bruton Road Christian Church*
2. *Bellville Street Fair*
3. *Bellville Street Fair*
4. *Faulk Run, Virginia, Skit*
5. *Balloon game at Harlem Reformed*
6. *Color guard in Harlingen, Texas*

SOCIETY WINNERS

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SOCIETY WINNERS

FIRST

The Teen Christian Endeavor Society of Bruton Road Christian Church, Dallas, Texas, has won first place in the society competition for its missionary project which was a community surveyed. The youth with their leaders visited 100 new homes in the area of the church.

Four groups of two went door-to-door in the survey emphasizing the Year of the Bible. Residents were asked: (1) Is there a Bible in your home? How often do you read it? (2) Do you attend church regularly? (3) Do you belong to any Bible study class? Would you be interested in information about the Bible classes for all ages at Bruton Road Christian Church?

Every home surveyed had a Bible. Residents of most homes stated that they read the Bible regularly. Most residents said they were not presently involved in a Bible study class.

Mary Moffitt is sponsor of the group and Linda Gard Kinzbach serves as co-sponsor. Leslie Loftin is minister of the church.

SECOND

The Christian Endeavor Society of Pleasant Grove Community Church, Bellville, Ohio, were second place winners in this year's competition for their year-long project, "For Christ and the Church."

The project included a farm display table at the Bellville Street Fair in September. All items displayed were labeled with Christian Endeavor labels; Christian Endeavor Pledge cards and monograms served as decorations for the table.

For Rally Day in October the

Bellville Street Fair

group prepared a felt and chalk picture depicting the theme for the day, "The Fields are White unto Harvest." On May 1st the group spent five hours participating in the "Clean-Up Ohio" campaign by cleaning up the highway and local roads surrounding their church. The group also had several fund raising projects during the year to help members attend the Ohio State Christian Endeavor Convention.

THIRD

Third place winner was the Post Hi Christian Endeavor Society of the Harlem Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan. The group conducted two projects under the theme, "For Christ and the Church."

The first project was organizing the entertainment portion of the Sunday school picnic. The group renamed the event "The Ingathering" and distributed monthly one-page newsletters to spark interest. A talent program was conducted at meal time and afternoon games were based on Bible topics and were given names like "David and Saul," "Throw out the Life Line," and "The Twelve Disciples."

The second project was developing a church newsletter each month to inform, entertain, and unify the members of the church in a bright and relaxed manner.

FOURTH

Fourth place in this year's competition goes to the Junior Christian Endeavor Society of Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia. The group had an ongoing program of visiting and witnessing to the residents of the Woodbine Nursing Home. While the young people frequently sing, play musical instruments, or give short talks at the home, in January they presented the entire program on the theme of "Joy." In this program the prayers, Scriptures quoted, meditation, all were given by the young people on the subject of joy. At the close of the service the juniors visited with the guests at the home and gave them a card with a cookie. The cookies were cut in the shape of a heart with the word "joy" written with frosting on each cookie.

RUNNERS-UP

Runners-up in the society entries, listed alphabetically by states are: High School and Young Adult Christian Endeavor Society, Mt. Carmel United Brethren in Christ Church, Fulks Run, Virginia; Junior High and High School Endeavor Society, First Christian Church, Harlingen, Texas; and Northport Christian Endeavor Society, Northport Christian Church, Newport, Tennessee.

"CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR:

by James Murdock

In 1951 I paid my first visit to the United States of America as one of a team of printers brought over to study the latest methods in "Photo-Offset" by the Anglo-American Council on Productivity. It was all part of a plan to help European industry recover from the effects of World War II and we received most generous treatment from our American counterparts. An added bonus for me was the opportunity it gave to meet up again with the many new friends I had made at the first postwar World's Christian Endeavor Convention held in London in 1950. Thanks to Dr. Gene Stone, at that time secretary in Columbus, I had Endeavor friends waiting to entertain and sometimes use me in the Lord's work in every city we visited. The other team members were amazed and envied me not a little. It brought home to me very forcibly the great privilege it was to belong to such a wonderful worldwide fellowship; truly "All one in Christ Jesus."

A treasured possession given to me at that time by Gene Stone was Francis E. Clark's MEMORIES OF MANY MEN IN MANY LANDS, our beloved founder's own record of some of the people he met and some of the meetings he addressed on the five journeys he made around the world. It is a large volume of over 700 pages, and since being elected as one of his successors in the presidency, I have returned to look at it again. It is an amazing record by an amazing man of God. In all his travels he met so many people that he was able to write on the inscription page, "To a *hundred thousand* friends in all lands, a few of whom are named in this volume, and all of whom have blessed my life." Having only attended a comparatively small number of conventions; met a few thousand friends; and encircled the globe only one time (so far!), I can none the less affirm that through worldwide Christian Endeavor I have experienced the truth of the words in John Oxenham's great hymn: *In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North, But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

Surely the spread of Christian Endeavor to the blessing of the church in so many parts of the world was a blowing by the winds of the Spirit, especially when we remember how much slower were the means of communication at the end of the last century. Of the World's Convention held in London 1926, the last World's Christian Endeavor gathering attended and addressed by Dr. Clark, he was able to write in the forward to the printed report, "It was a unique Convention. It was the largest or at least the most widely representative young people's religious gathering ever held in the history of Christianity. Not only were thirty-eight different nationalities represented, but in the countries unable to send delegates were members waiting for reports by radio, cable, or letter. In the broadest sense of the words, it was a worldwide Convention." The seed of Christian Endeavor had been wafted on every breeze to almost every corner of the world. Missionaries themselves inspired through C.E. to go to the "uttermost parts" started up societies in every continent.

The next World's Convention in London was numerically a much smaller affair being the first after World War II, and to which I have already referred. If it is true to say that "small is beautiful" then for those of us who attended, it was indeed a beautiful experience. Friendships were made which have lasted; Endeavorers were brought together again after being sadly kept apart through the horrors of wars; new leaders were discovered to take their places beside those who were still holding the movement true to its principles. Is it not significant that Clyde Meadows, Arno Pagel, and the writer came to their first World's Convention in London 1950? Let us remember that the first society consisted of less than 60 members, but from it grew the great Christian Endeavor tree like the grain of mustard seed to which our Lord likened the kingdom of heaven. The Second Century Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland, was similar in size to London 1950, but from all reports received it has had an influence for good quite out of proportion to the members who were present. (If you did not get a copy of the excellent report issue of THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD, write to Columbus for one.)

Of the postwar gatherings probably only two came anywhere near to the vast crowds seen in earlier

Yesterday, Today and For..."

World Conventions. I refer to Frankfort 1958 and Belfast 1966. In both of these audiences of up to 12,000 met in the large auditoriums used for the purpose, reflecting the strength of the movement in Germany and Northern Ireland, and their ability to draw on the interest of the Christian public in these cities. Essen 1974 was another meeting of thousands, but so is every German National Convention held annually. By comparison 1,600 in New Delhi 1978 seems small, but when one considers the distances to be covered in the Indian sub-continent, and the fewer than usual attendance of delegates from other countries, it was most commendable — one kept meeting groups who had traveled up to two days and nights by train in order to be there, and then had the same journey back home. Let it also be said it was an outstanding convention and has led to considerable growth in the India Christian Endeavor Union.

One rather expected that the Centennial Convention in Portland, Maine, 1981 would have surpassed them all in size, but while it did not do so, it was one of the most representative of our movement throughout the world in recent years, and a time of rich blessing. Following upon it, my wife Betty and I were privileged to continue going westward and were able to see something of Christian Endeavor in Hawaii, Japan, Korea, India as it stands today. We arrived back in Britain in time to attend the climax to "Centenary" year in London's Central Hall and Westminster Abbey, and the final Scottish rally addressed by Rev. Arno Pagel and greeted by Rev. Charles Barner. In all of these places there was much evidence that Christian Endeavor is still fulfilling its God-given task, with India and Korea (especially Korea) growing in numbers and in spiritual strength. It looks as if the worth of Christian Endeavor is being appreciated to a greater extent in the younger churches.

Gone are the days in America and Europe when we were almost alone in providing for the spiritual development of Christian youth. Though Christian Endeavor was among the first to bring Christians of different denominations together, the strange fact emerges that the growth of the ecumenical movement seems to have made the major denominations more possessive of their young people and keen to have them meet as a group belonging to their particular church. Have they not realized that in Christian Endeavor they have the best of both worlds by the primary stress we put upon loyalty to the local church and denomination as well as to the wider fellowship with the Lord's people in all the churches? Through its unions, national and international groupings, we have had a unity of Spirit, which while helping to break down barriers, has not destroyed all that is important in what each church has distinctively to offer to the whole of Christendom. Why does this not appeal to a larger extent amongst evangelical churches?

I have a friend here in Scotland who avers that we will have to wait until God in His sovereignty comes in mighty reviving power, as he did in the 1859 Revival in Ireland when the effects spread to the rest of Britain, the United States, and to other parts of the world. In such a spiritual climate Christian Endeavor and its true worth will again be realized — so he says. It is true that in western nations there is a pre-occupation with material things which makes it difficult, even for Christians to find time for a meeting which expects its members to accept a covenant calling upon them 1) to commit themselves to daily prayer and Bible reading; 2) to come prepared to take part in each meeting; 3) to show loyalty to one's own church first; 4) and be willing to serve Christ in "WHATEVER He would have me do." Yet are these not the simple but necessary disciplines (how that word is dispised) of discipleship? Are these not the essential ingredients for spiritual growth? Of course they are! They are basic to healthy Christian living. By-pass them and the result is a weakening of one's testimony to the power of Christ to make us new persons. It is not untrue to say that the sapping of the moral fibre of the so-called Christian nations has been aided by compromise within the Christian Church. You cannot be a true DISCIPLE without accepting the DISCIPLine involved in following the One "who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). Many of us have enjoyed being taught to sing by Dr. Meadows, the lovely chorus written by his late wife, "Let the Lord Have His Way." That's what we need more in the church today; more and more who are letting the Lord have His way fully and completely in their lives. Read again Romans 12:1, 2, which I think has been used in Christian Endeavor meetings perhaps more than anywhere else, and in a quiet place, as you meditate upon the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf, ask yourself, "Is any sacrifice I am called upon to make too great for HIM?" *(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

"Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward" was the call of God through Moses to His own people as they stood hesitant and fearful on the banks of the Red Sea. I would call you to go forward "For Christ and the Church" into this Second Century, believing that as God was with Moses and with Francis Clark, so too will He be with us as we obey Him. In practical terms we must advance in the following ways:

1. Hold fast to the Christian covenant. What a privilege to be in a covenant relationship with God through the new covenant in Christ. Are we keeping our covenant with Him?

2. Make our consecration to God real. It is so easy to use a form of words, and mean them too at the time of saying and yet not put them into practice. We must beware of saying "I will" and not "doing."

3. Show we are in the church "for real." Too many take church membership too lightly. It has been said that membership into the kingdom is free — the price having been paid upon the cross — but the annual subscription is "everything we have."

4. Be loyal to Christian Endeavor. The old couplet may not be very good grammar, but it 'packs a punch.' "If every member was just like me — how good would my society be?"

Dear reader — you believe in Christian Endeavor don't you? You believe it is as necessary to the church in 1983 as in 1883 and want to see it go forward?

Can I ask you then to do four things? (a) Pray for it *every* day. (b) Be willing to stand in and help where necessary. (c) Look out for opportunities to get new societies started. (d) Wear your badge and be an advocate for Christian Endeavor everywhere you go.

As I See It...

by Charles W. Barner

In the book, WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR, authored by Arno Pagel, the fifth chapter gives background on the life of Dr. Alexander von Csia, who served as general secretary of the Hungarian Christian Endeavor movement. While attending the Second Century Christian Endeavor Conference in Scotland last August I met his daughter, Dr. Clara Csia, and asked her to write about her memories of Christian Endeavor. Dr. Csia is active teaching Bible classes at the Hungarian Presbyterian Church in Zurich.

She wrote: "I belong to 'Christian Endeavor' through my dear parents who were active members in Hungarian Christian Endeavor before the movement was forbidden after 1945. In our childhood, my sister and I participated with them at two World's Conventions. It was then that I learned that I do not only belong to my own family, but to the worldwide family of sisters and brothers in Christ of every nation and color. Back in my native Hungary, while my father was imprisoned as a 'class enemy,' my mother and I were deported into a village for two years. Part of the time I worked on state-owned cooperative farms. We were under police control. Often I dreamed that I attended a Christian international convention, and we sang *Onward Christian Soldiers* or some other favorite hymn, everybody in his or her own language. After our escape to Switzerland, my dream came true when I took part at the Christian Endeavor World's Convention in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1958. There, once again, I experienced that we can comprehend really '*with all the saints* what is the breadth and length and height and depth' of Christ's love. (Ephesians 3:18).

"There is an old Hungarian folk ballad about the building of Castle Deva, called *Clemens the Mason.* The walls Clemens and his fellow workers built during the day always crumbled during the night. Then the masons decided to sacrifice the first person who came to visit them. This happened to be the beloved wife of Clemens. When her blood was mixed with the lime, the walls held fast. The Church of God was built by the sacrifice of the blood of Christ, 'Like that of a lamb without blemish or spot' (I Peter 1:19). On this precious blood our fellowship is based. Our meetings can give us a foretaste of heaven.

"'So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God' (Ephesians 2:19)."

"Forward be our watchword,
steps and voices joined;
Seek the things before us not a look behind:
Burns the fiery pillar at our army's head;
Who shall dream of shrinking, by our Captain led.

Forward through the desert, through the toil and fight:
Forward through the darkness,
Forward into light."

(Henry Alford)

"Standing by an open door . . .
Ready for a hundred more."

(Centenary song)

Marks of Christian Character

I Peter 1:3-11

by David P. Nolte

The Greek word for "character" means an inscribing tool. It came to mean the mark left by such a tool, and then to mean any peculiarity or mark of distinction by which one thing may be distinguished from another. For instance, you might tell one pencil from another by certain marks on it which characterize or distinguish it from other pencils.

There are certain marks of Christian character which ought to be evident in our lives. These are characteristics which distinguish us from the "man of the world" or the unbeliever. These characteristic marks are well summed up in the CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PLEDGE: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support the work and worship of my own church in every way possible; and that just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life."

I. THE FIRST MARK OF CHARACTER IS CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST: VERSES 2-3

Testings in life are certain to come. Many meet these trials and tests with a lack of hope and trust. The result is sure despair and defeat. Others, those who have confidence in Christ, meet tests with hope and trust. The result is growth in strength and character. Trusting Jesus Christ means we can have confidence of certain facts: 1. HE IS AWARE OF US! He knows us, our situations, our weaknesses, our efforts. 2. HE IS ACCESSIBLE TO US. Wherever we are, at any time, we can approach Him openly and boldly and He will not turn us away! 3. HE IS ANXIOUS TO AID US. He cares what we experience and wants to give us strength to come out on top! 4. HE IS ABLE TO AID US. More than just feeling for us, God is powerful enough to come to our aid! The book of Hebrews, chapter 2 and verse 18 tells us: *"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." (NASB)*

The pledge says, "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength . . ." This finds its agreement in the words of Paul who said, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 (NASB)

Jesus Christ, then, is our Enabler, our Strengthener, our Equalizer! We find Him to a fortress, as Martin Luther said in his great hymn:

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

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II. THE SECOND MARK OF CHARACTER IS COMMITMENT TO CHRIST: VERSE 4

Being Christian means we have partaken of His divine nature. That only occurs when we make a deliberate, conscious commitment of our very selves to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

We all make many commitments. We sign a contract to purchase a car; we make a promise to help someone with a task; we agree to do a job for such and such a wage.

The most important commitment we will ever make is to Jesus Christ; that commitment may be summed up in these words of the Pledge: "I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support the work and worship of my own church in every way possible; and that just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life."

In other words, "His will and way: MINE!" We will find that care and nurture of our hearts and souls is more important than care of our physical bodies; participation in the Body of Christ more significant than secular interests; and living a life like that of Christ most fulfilling!

Many want the blessings without the cost of commitment. Mere belief is cheap and costs nothing; to be a disciple demands genuine commitment. If you are serious about anything in life, BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 warns us: *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you*

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

What if your milkman failed in his commitment to deliver milk; or your doctor failed to honor his commitment to perform a surgery to save your life; or the policeman shunned his commitment to respond to your frantic call for help; or a fireman put off his commitment to come when your home is burning????

To walk with Christ demands genuine commitment!

III. THE THIRD MARK OF CHARACTER IS CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT FOR CHRIST: VERSES 5-8

It is easy to make a mental decision; it is easy to glibly promise great and glorious deeds; IT IS QUITE ANOTHER THING TO PERFORM!

As a boy, I used to delight in sitting behind the wheel of dad's Oldsmobile. Of course, the engine was not running! But, I would clasp the wheel and make a sound like, "VROOOOOOOOM!" I was going through motions — but the car sat still! All noise and no progress!

Always remember, God does not demand that we be successful, but God does demand that we be faithful! We may try and fail — but let us at least TRY! Let us put our promises into action with conscientious effort!

There are some key words in the Pledge; those words are: "strive, support, and endeavor." They indicate a desire to struggle, to compete, to do one's part, to make earnest and genuine effort to do something!

Without the implementation of these attitudes, we are half-hearted, lukewarm, wish-washy semi-Christians!

Let us be like the little boy whose father was a preacher. He asked the little guy to get a book for him from his study upstairs. The boy hurried to do his father's bidding, but in a few minutes his father heard him on the stairs, softly crying. Hurrying to see what the problems could be, he saw the little boy, both arms wrapped around the large volume, sitting down scooting down one step at a time. He asked, "What's the matter, son?" and the boy replied, "Dis book's real heavy — but I a-tryin' Dad!"

Do you imagine for a moment the father was displeased? Never! He swept both the little boy and the book into his arms and carried them into the other room where he commended his boy for his efforts!

What does our Father see when He considers your life and mine? Does He see us trusting His Son, Jesus? Does He see us committed to doing His will? Does He see conscientious effort to perform? If so, He sees the marks of Christian character which distinguish us from others who do not know Jesus. Consider the Christian Endeavor Pledge; let it be a call to consecration to you right this moment as we sing our hymn of invitation.

Christian Endeavor Sermon Contest

In order to challenge pastors across North America to stress the importance of Christian Endeavor in their local churches, a second annual Christian Endeavor Sermon Contest has been announced by David G. Jackson, executive secretary of the International Society.

The contest this year will be based on the Christian Endeavor chapter of the Bible, *Romans 12.* Pastors should prepare and preach their sermon using this passage of Scripture as the basis for their message.

Rules for the contest are as follows:

1. The participant must be the pastor of a church which sponsors a Christian Endeavor society or similar youth group.
2. The sermon must be preached in a regular church service.
3. The sermon should be 15 to 20 minutes in length.
4. The entry must be typewritten and double spaced.
5. The first place winner in the last sermon contest is not eligible.

The first place winner will receive $100 cash; second place, $75; and third place, $50. Excerpts from the award winning sermons will be printed in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD.

Deadline for entries is February 29, 1984, with announcement of winners to be made April 30, 1984.

Entries are to be mailed to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, P.O. Box 1110, Columbus, Ohio 43216, with the envelope clearly marked SERMON CONTEST. (Include with the entry a statement indicating the place where and the date when the sermon was delivered.) The sermons will be submitted to a panel of judges whose decisions will be final.

WESTCHESTER C.E. ALUMNI

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Westchester Christian Endeavor Alumni Association:

Co-presidents: Mrs. Roy Kallop and Mrs. Cyrus Russell
Vice-President: Mrs. Arthur Osterhoudt
Secretary: Miss Marie Worden
Treasurer: Miss Evelyn R. Purdy

A THANK YOU

"I just have been reading through the many letters and cards I received from my father's many friends in Christian Endeavor around the world . . . I am deeply appreciative of all the remembrances, which once again remind me of the loving investment of life Dad gave in serving 'Christ and the Church' through Christian Endeavor. Please express our family's gratitude to my father's friends who took time to write to us with beautiful expressions of consolation and friendship. I have known many of them only by name, as Dad would speak of them, but their personal associations with him over the years meant a great deal to him. And their words of affection for him minister to us now . . . Certainly my life is filled with a spirit of his legacy that continues to be a deep resource of encouragement to my own ministry . . . His loving, gentle affection and bright faith shall keep him close."

Bob McQuilkin

A TESTIMONY FROM THE WINNER

The following testimony was recently received from Rev. William W. Wesier, first place winner in the Christian Endeavor sermon contest. "The monetary award and selection by the judges were personally very gratifying, but in a sense anticlimatic. The sermon had already been "a winner." I delivered that sermon to my congregation November 7th. On November 21st, one of our newer members, Brenda Eckroth, asked if she could share her personal testimony in the worship service. Being Thanksgiving Sunday, I thought it would be an excellent conclusion to my sermon that morning. This was her first public testimony. In addition to her praise to Christ as her Lord and Savior, she referred to that sermon and in particular to the adaptation of the C.E. Pledge as a practice in her life from that day forth. At the time of her sharing that testimony in our church, she had only had two weeks of applying the C.E. Pledge to her life. The day before I was presented with the check from C.E., I talked with her again to see if her personal devotions and the principles of C.E. were still working in her life. She affirmed that they were . . . shared several illustrations, and has indicated in numerous ways that growth is taking place daily . . . real spiritual growth in her life and in her family. So you see, even if the sermon had not been chosen by the judges, it was already a winner. But I deeply appreciate your confirmation that it had some merit. May it continue to be used for God's Glory!

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Charles W. Barner, general secretary of the International Society and World's Union, and Etta V. Berger, trustee and former regional vice-president of the International Society, on their marriage March 19, 1983. The ceremony was held in the Bethany United Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon. Rev. and Mrs. Barner are now residing at 144 Regal Place, Gahanna.

CALIFORNIA

Christian Endeavor leaders in California attended a brunch in San Gabriel on Saturday, January 26, to hear reports of Christian Endeavor activities in the International Society and the World's Union. Plans for attending the Seattle 83 Convention, July 4-8 were discussed as well as plans for the California Junior Christian Endeavor Camp at St. Barbara, July 10-16. Dorothy M. Mock will serve as director. Harold Holstein, president of the Los Angeles County Union, arranged the get-together.

The Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles observed Christian Endeavor Sunday on January 30 at 5 p.m. when Charles W. Barner, general secretary of the International Society, addressed 134 Endeavorers. It was a combined rally of the eleven groups which meet each Sunday in the church at the hour for Christian Endeavor. Mark von Ehrenkrook, minister of Christian Education to Children and Adults, was in charge of arrangements.

Charles Barner also met with the young people of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, California, on Sunday morning, January 30. He also extended greetings on behalf of Christian Endeavor to the congregation in the morning worship service. Rev. Edward S. Tomassian is the pastor and the visit was arranged by Steven Kradjian, Youth Assembly delegate from California.

Guatemala... Update

by Mrs. Dorothy Haeussler

The Guatemala Christian Endeavor Convention was held December 26-30, 1982, at the Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe, Guatemala. Rev. Charles W. Barner, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Etta Berger, Portland, Oregon; Louisa Padilla, New York City, and I (Woodstock, New York) attended the convention at San Felipe which was close to the Pacific Ocean.

The convention included Bible study, special conferences, fellowship time, organized games, business meeting, installation of officers, and mass meetings in the evening. More than 100 delegates gathered on Wednesday evening to see the new officers installed: president, Sergio Erique Morales; vice-president, Cesar Ajanel; and secretary, Lidia Esperanza Villatoro Moreno.

Following the convention, we were honored to visit homes and enjoy the Christian hospitality of some of our Christian Endeavor friends. We attended Christian Endeavor meetings in different churches in Guatemala City. We heard testimonies of veteran Endeavorers as well as young ones concerning their dedication to "Christ and the Church." It made my heart swell with joy and thanksgiving to feel the Spirit of the Lord working and to realize we are all members of God's family through Christ. I came home feeling I had been privileged to be in the company of these Christian people, so near and yet so far away in many ways from us in North America.

Please keep the Guatemalan Endeavorers in your prayers as we look forward to fellowshiping with their delegation at the International Convention in Seattle, July 4-8.

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

1983 Society Roll Call

Societies and unions which have become members of the International Society of Christian Endeavor through financial support of $25 or more during March, April, and May of 1983 are listed here. Each of these groups has received an enrollment certificate. Those groups which have contributed $100 or more have received a gold seal certificate.

Groups are arranged alphabetically by state and province. Others who enroll will be listed in future issues.

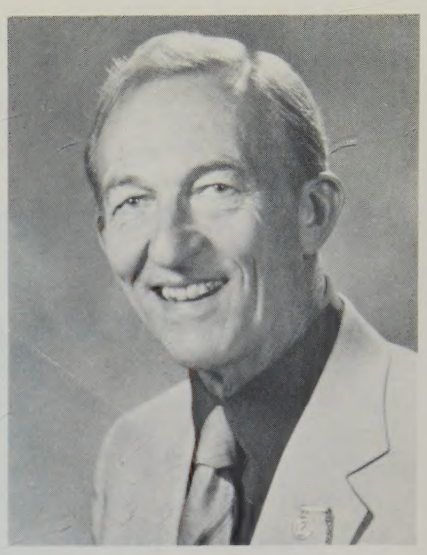
GOLD SEAL

American Samoa Christian Endeavor Society
California Christian Endeavor Union
Canadian Christian Endeavour Union
Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York
Ontario Christian Endeavour Society
Avlon United Brethren Church, Bremen, Ohio
Christian Endeavor Poling Alumni Association, Cleveland, Ohio
Olivet Covenant United Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Senior Christian Endeavor Society, Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church of Royersford, Pennsylvania
Parson's Primitive Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Christian Endeavor Societies, First Reformed Church, Yakima, Washington

HONOR GROUPS

Varick's Christian Endeavor, Zion Hill A.M.E. Zion Church, Fosters, Alabama
Rancho Cordova Nazarene Church, Citrus Heights, California
Varick Christian Endeavor Society, Logan Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, San Diego, California
Christian Endeavor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Delaware
Christian Endeavor, Third Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
Mt. Rona Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
Alumni Council of Christian Endeavor, Chicago, Illinois
Christian Endeavor, Calvary Reformed Church, South Holland, Illinois
Worcester County (MA) Christian Endeavor Fellowship
Westport Federated Church, Westport, New York
Evans Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Silver City, North Carolina
Christian Endeavor, Monticello United Brethren Church, Spencerville, Ohio
Bunker Hill Evangelical Congregational Church, Akron, Pennsylvania
Christian Endeavor, Breackneck Church of God, Connellsville, Pennsylvania
Adult Christian Endeavor, Central Fellowship Church, Connellsville, Pennsylvania
Christian Endeavor, Maysville Community Church, Greenville, Pennsylvania
Lehigh Valley (PA) Christian Endeavor Fellowship
Christian Endeavor, Holmesburg United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Alumni Christian Endeavor, Olivet Covenant United Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Senior Christian Endeavor, St. Paul's Evangelical Congregational Church, Whitehall, Pennsylvania
York County (PA) Christian Endeavor Union
Allen Christian Endeavor Fellowship, Smith Chapel A.M.E. Church, Dallas, Texas
Junior Chirstian Endeavor, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia
Junior High and Senior High Christian Endeavor, Third Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, Virginia
Junior High and Senior High Christian Endeavor Societies, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Everett, Washington
Christian Endeavor Societies, First Reformed Church, Oak Harbor, Washington
Lambton County (Ontario) Christian Endeavour Fellowship
Christian Endeavour, Stevensville United Brethren Church, Stevensville, Ontario
Junior Christian Endeavour, Shiloh United Brethren Church, Tiverton, Ontario

The President's Corner



by Lavern Billig

Did you ever stop to think of the many benefits we enjoy because of Christian Endeavor? If I were to name all the benefits that are mine it would be quite a list. To me, the most important one is found in the fourth principle of Christian Endeavor . . . Fellowship with Christ's People. In Christian Endeavor it is possible to have friends all around the world. This was brought to my attention recently when I was at a meeting in New Jersey. I was with friends from the United States and Canada. Then into the meeting came Rev. James Carson from Ireland and Konrad Brandt from Germany. What a joy it was to have fellowship with these Christian friends. A few days later I met up with Rev. and Mrs. James Murdoch from Scotland and had good fellowship with them.

At the Second Century Conference last year I met some young people who were delegates from Mexico. We became friends and I corresponded with them. Several weeks ago I received a letter from this young person and the closing line said, "If you want to come to Mexico, you could stay in my home. Welcome!" This is friendship at its best.

Of course, the greatest Friend of all is Jesus. Through Christian Endeavor untold thousands have been introduced to this wonderful Friend. I wonder, is He your Friend today? I hope that He is. The words from the following chorus are my testimony concerning His friendship:

"He's a Friend of mine
He's a Friend of Mine
He's a Friend I can recommend
This Friend of mine"

Do you appreciate your friends? I have made many friends through the years in Christian Endeavor and I appreciate all of them. Each one is a cherished and prized possession. I am looking forward now to renewing friendships and making new friends at the coming International Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle, Washington. What an opportunity that will be to have fellowship with Christ's people. Will you be there to share in that fellowship?

The Love of a Friend

Like music on still waters,
Like pines when the wind passeth by,
Like pearls in the deep of the ocean,
Like stars which enamel the sky,
Like June and the odor of roses,
Like dew and the freshness of morn,
Like sunshine which kisses the clover,
Like tassels of silk on the corn,
Like notes of thrush in the woodland,
Like brooks where violets grow,
Like rainbows that arch the blue heaven,
Like clouds when the sun dippeth low,
Like dreams of Arcadian pleasure,
Like colors which gracefully blend,
Like everything breathing of pureness,
Like these is the love of a friend.

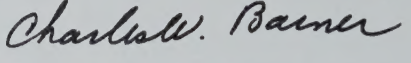
OFFICIAL NOTICE

Corporation Meeting of the International Society of Christian Endeavor

The regular meeting of the Corporation of the International Society of Christian Endeavor will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 1983, at the Miller Science Learning Center, Room 109, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington.

All officers of the Corporation, members of the Board of Trustees, persons who serve on elective or appointive committees of the Corporation, president of each Christian Endeavor union within the United States, Canada, American Samoa, and Mexico which registers annually with the International Society, the president of each Christian Endeavor society or similar group which subscribes to Christian Endeavor principles and participates in Christian Endeavor activities within the United States, Canada, American Samoa, and Mexico and which registers annually with the International Society, all persons who pay an annual membership fee of $25, all persons under twenty-five or over sixty-five years of age who pay an annual membership fee of $10 are voting members of the Corporation.

Lavern Billig
President



Charles W. Barner
Clerk

May 31, 1983
Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

Graduate Theological Union Library
2400 Ridge Road
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